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LEADING
CONVEYANCING
AND
EQUITY CASES

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AN EPITOME
OF
LEADING CONVEYANCING
AND
EQUITY CASES.



AN EPITOME
OF
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AND
EQUITY CASES;

WITH SOME SHORT NOTES THEREON:

CHIEFLY INTENDED AS

A Guide to "Tudor's Leading Cases on Conveyancing," and

"White and Tudor's Leading Cases in Equity."

BY

JOHN INDERMAUR,

SOLICITOR

(CLIFFORD'S INN PRIZEMAN, MICHAELMAS TERM, 1872),

AUTHOR OF "AN EPITOME OF LEADING COMMON LAW CASES."



LONDON:
STEVENS & HAYNES,
Law Publishers,
BELL YARD, TEMPLE BAR.
1873.

LONDON :
PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS,
STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS.

PREFACE.

IN the same way that his 'Epitome of Leading Common Law Cases' is intended by the author as a guide to 'Smith's Leading Cases,' so this Epitome is meant to constitute a stepping-stone to the study of the well-known 'Leading Cases in Equity' by Messrs. White and Tudor, and the 'Conveyancing Cases' by Mr. Tudor, and it contains all the cases set out in those volumes—except some few which have been thought not now of so much practical importance—together with several additional ones. If it will induce the student to explore the mines of learning to be found in those valuable works the author's object will be fully attained.

The Conveyancing and Equity Cases are here epitomized together, because they generally bear such a close relationship, many of those indeed which are given in the Equity volumes, more especially, bearing quite as

much on Conveyancing; thus, in the Final Examination at Michaelmas Term last, under the head of 'Conveyancing,' two questions were asked directly on Messrs. White and Tudor's Equity Cases, and it is also very convenient to consider them together.

J. I.

6, DANES' INN, TEMPLE BAR, W.C.,
April, 1873.

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NOTE.—The edition of 'TUDOR'S LEADING CASES ON CONVEYANCING to which reference is made in this Epitome is the 2nd, published in 1863, and the edition of 'WHITE AND TUDOR'S LEADING CASES IN EQUITY' to which reference is made is the 4th, published in 1872.

AN EPITOME
OF
LEADING CONVEYANCING
AND
EQUITY CASES.

RICHARDSON v. LANGRIDGE.

(*Lead. Cas. Conv. 4.*)

Decided.—That if an agreement be made to let premises so long as both parties live, and reserving a compensation accruing *de die in diem*, and not referable to a year or any aliquot part of a year, it does not create a holding from year to year, but a tenancy at will strictly so called; but if there is a general letting at a yearly rent, though payable half-yearly or quarterly, and though nothing is said about the duration of the term, it is an implied letting from year to year.

Notes.—This case shews the rule for determining when a tenancy is for years and when at will. The leaning of the Courts is always to construe the tenancy as from year to year. Although a tenancy may originally be at will, yet it may afterwards, by payment of rent or other circumstances, be converted into a tenancy for years (see Epitome of Lead. C. L. Cases, pp. 29, 30).

LEWIS BOWLES' CASE.

(*Lead. Cas. Conv. 27.*)

The following were the chief points resolved :—

1. That a tenant in tail after possibility of issue extinct shall *not* be punished for waste.

2. That if a tenant for life fells timber or pulls down the house, the lessor shall have the timber; but if the house falls down, the particular tenant has a special property in the timber to rebuild the house.

3. That a tenant for life *without impeachment of waste* has as great power to do waste and convert it at his own pleasure as has a tenant in tail.

4. That the property in severed trees vests in a tenant for life without impeachment of waste.

GARTH v. COTTON.

(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq. 697.*)

Mr. Garth, the father of the plaintiff, was tenant of lands for ninety-nine years, if he should so long live, *without impeachment of waste, except voluntary waste*; remainder to trustees to preserve contingent remainders; remainder to his first and other sons in tail; remainder to defendant in fee. Mr. Garth (before the birth of a son) and the defendant, according to an agreement, cut down timber and divided the profits between them. The plain-

tiff was afterwards born, and having suffered a recovery, brought this bill against defendant to refund his share of the profits of the timber received by him.

Decided:—That he was so entitled to recover from the defendant.

Notes on these two Cases.—The first of the above two cases is the leading case as to waste and the powers of persons having estates not of inheritance, and contains several important resolutions, and is always referred to on the subject. The latter case is as to that kind of waste called “equitable waste.” “Waste” is defined in Mr. Tudor’s notes to *Lewis Bowles’ Case* as “the destructive or material alteration of things forming an essential part of the inheritance;” and it is either voluntary, which is by the tenant’s own act, or permissive, as by letting the premises go to ruin. The remedy for waste is either by action at law or suit in equity for damages for waste already committed, or an injunction may be obtained against future waste; but it has been decided that in cases of *permissive* waste Courts of Equity cannot interfere, but the party injured must be left to his remedy at law. Waste is also divided with reference to the remedy into Legal waste and Equitable waste.

TYRRINGHAM’S CASE.

(*Lead. Cas. Conv.* 101.)

The following were the chief points resolved:—

1. That prescription does *not* make a thing appendant to another unless it agree in nature and quality with it, as a thing corporeal cannot be appendant to another corporeal thing, nor *vice versâ*.

2. That common appendant is of common right, and need not be prescribed for; but that it only belongs to

ancient arable land, and for horses and oxen to plough, and cows and sheep to manure the land.

3. Common appendant is apportionable, but not common appurtenant.

4. Unity of possession of the whole land is an extinguishment of common appendant.

5. Common appendant remains, though a house be afterwards built on the land, or the arable land be afterwards converted into pasture; but in pleading it ought to be prescribed for as appendant to land.

Notes.—The above case is the leading authority as to common and rights of common. In Mr. Tudor's notes to this case a right of common is defined as "a right which one person has of taking some part of the produce of land, while the whole property of the land itself is vested in another." There are properly four kinds of common, viz. (1) Common of pasture; (2) Common of piscary; (3) Common of turbary; and (4) Common of estovers; and to these is sometimes added a fifth sort, viz., Common in the soil. Common of pasture, which is the most usual and important sort, may be either (1) Appendant, (2) Appurtenant, (3) Because of vicinage, or (4) In gross.

The time for which a right of common must be enjoyed to constitute a good title to it is fixed by 2 & 3 Will. 4, c. 71.

SURY v. PIGOT.

(*Lead. Cas. Conv.* 127.)

The following were the chief points determined:—

1. That a watercourse having its origin *ex jure naturæ*, and not from grant or prescription, is not extinguished by unity of possession; but

2. A right of way, having its origin either by grant or prescription, will be extinguished by unity of possession, unless it be a way of necessity, as a way to market or church.

Notes.—This case is the leading authority upon the law of easements. An easement is defined by Mr. Tudor in his notes to the case as “a right which the owner of one tenement, which is called the dominant tenement, has over another which is called the servient tenement, to compel the owner thereof to permit to be done, or to refrain from doing, something on such tenement for the advantage of the former.” Easements may arise by express or implied grant, or by prescription, or by Act of Parliament.

The time for which enjoyment of an easement must be had to constitute a good title is fixed by the same statute as applies to rights of common, viz. 2 & 3 Will. 4, c. 71.

FOX v. BISHOP OF CHESTER.

(*Lead. Cas. Conv.* 190.)

Here, whilst the incumbent of the living was *in extremis*, but before he died, the next presentation was sold, but without the privity of, and without any intention to present, the particular clerk to the church when vacant. *Decided*:—That this sale was not void on the ground of simony.

Notes.—But had the sale been when the living was actually vacant, it would have been simoniacal and bad.

TYBRELL'S CASE.

(*Lead. Cas. Conv.* 274.)

Decided :—That there cannot be a use upon a use.

Notes.—The Statute of Uses (27 Hen. 8, c. 10) provided, that where any persons should stand seised of any hereditaments to the use, confidence, or trust of any other persons, &c., the persons, &c., who had any such use, confidence, or trust should be deemed in lawful seisin and possession of the same hereditaments for such estates as they had in the use, trust, or confidence. The above case decided that the statute executing the first use declared, subsequent uses were void; and it was in consequence of this that the Court of Chancery stepped in, and thus arose the modern doctrine of uses and trusts.

ALEXANDER v. ALEXANDER.

(*Lead. Cas. Conv.* 330.)

Here, under a power to appoint amongst children, the appointor had appointed part to children and part to grandchildren. *Decided* :—That the appointment to grandchildren was bad; but that a power may be good and bad in part, and the excess only void, where the execution is complete and the bounds between it and the excess clear.

TOLLET v. TOLLET.

(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 227.)

Here a husband had a power to make a jointure to his wife by deed, and he did it by will, and she had no other

provision. *Decided* :—That Equity will make this defective execution good; but that it would not assist in the case of non-execution of a power.

ALEYN v. BELCHIER.

(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 377.)

Here a power of jointuring was executed in favour of a wife, but with an agreement that the wife should only receive a part as an annuity for her own benefit, and that the residue should be applied to the payment of the husband's debts. *Decided* :—That this was a fraud upon the power, and the execution was set aside, except so far as related to the annuity, the bill containing a submission to pay it, and only seeking relief against the other objects of the appointment.

TOPHAM v. DUKE OF PORTLAND.

(1 *De G. J. & S.* 517.)

Here the donee of a power, appointing portions in pursuance thereof, appointed a double share to one of the objects of the power without any previous communication with him, but the instructions with reference to such double share were that half should be held upon a certain trust; and soon after the appointment the appointee executed a deed settling the moiety accordingly. *Decided* :

—That the purpose of the appointment as to the moiety, though uncommunicated, vitiated it as to that portion, but as to that portion only. The rights of persons entitled in default of appointment under a power, can be defeated only by its *bonâ fide* exercise.

Notes on these four Cases.—These cases are here placed together for convenience as all bearing on the same general subject, the the first as to the result of an excessive execution of a power, the second as shewing that Equity will assist in the case of defective execution of a power, and the remaining two as being both leading authorities as to what acts will be considered frauds upon powers.

With regard to the defective execution of a power relief will be given in Equity in favour of any of the following:—(1) A charity; (2) A purchaser; (3) A creditor; (4) An *intended* husband; (5) A wife; (6) A legitimate child; where in each case the defect is not of the very essence of the power. Notwithstanding the decision in *Tollet v. Tollet* that relief will not be given in the case of non-execution of a power, there are two cases in which such relief will be given, viz.: (1) Where the execution has been prevented by fraud; and (2) Where the power is coupled with a trust; and an instance of this latter appears in the case of *Harding Glynn* (*infra*), though the principal decision in that case was on another point.

HARDING v. GLYNN.

(2 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 946.)

A testator by his will gave personal property to his wife, but *did desire her*, at or before her death, to give the same into and amongst such of his own relations as she should think most deserving and approve of. *Decided*:—

That the wife was only intended to take beneficially during her life, and that so much of the property not disposed of in accordance with the power ought to be divided equally amongst such of the relations of the testator as were his next of kin at the time of his wife's death.

Notes.—In the above case words which merely expressed the wish or desire of the testator were held to constitute a trust, and frequently it is very difficult to determine when and when not a trust will be created by words of that nature. The general rule is, that where property is given absolutely, accompanied with words of recommendation, entreaty, or wish, that the donee will dispose of that property in favour of another, such words shall be held to create a trust; but (1), the words must be so used that upon the whole they ought to be construed as imperative; (2), the subject of the recommendation or wish must be certain; and (3) the objects of the recommendation or wish must be certain. Words of recommendation, &c., will *not* be construed as imperative if an intention appear in any part of the will to give the devisee a right or power to spend the property.

CADELL v. PALMER.

(*Lead. Cas. Conv.* 360.)

Decided :—That a limitation by way of executory devise, which is not to take effect until after the determination of a life or lives in being, and a term of 21 years as a term in gross, and without reference to the infancy of any person, is a valid limitation; a period for gestation to be allowed in those cases in which it actually exists: but not otherwise.

GRIFFITHS v. VERE.

(*Lead. Cas. Conv.* 430.)

Decided :—That a trust by will for accumulation during a life, contrary to the Thellusson Act (39 & 40 Geo. 3, c. 98), is good for 21 years by that statute.

Notes on these two Cases.—In *Cadell v. Palmer* the limits of the rule against perpetuities were finally ascertained and marked out. The accumulation of the income of property, and the suspension of all enjoyment of it, might be directed for the same period as the suspension of its alienation or vesting; but in consequence of the extraordinary will of Mr. Thellusson, which provided for the accumulation of the income of his property for a long period, but yet strictly within the time allowed for the creation of executory interests, the stat. 39 & 40 Geo. 3, c. 98, was passed. This statute forbids the accumulation of income for any longer periods than (1) the life or lives of the grantor or grantors, settlor or settlors; or (2), the term of twenty-one years from the death of any such grantor, settlor, deviser, or testator; or (3), during the minority or respective minorities of any person or persons who shall be living, or in *ventre sa mère* at the time of the death of such grantor, deviser, or testator; or (4), during the minority or respective minorities only of any person or persons who under the deed, surrender, will, or other assurance directing such accumulations, would for the time being, if of full age, be entitled to the rents, issues, and profits, or the interest, dividends, or annual produce so directed to be accumulated. *Griffiths v. Vere* is the leading case upon the construction of this statute, and shews that although the trust for accumulation may exceed the periods allowed by this statute, yet it shall be good for twenty-one years. But it is important to remember that if a direction to accumulate exceeds the limit allowed for the creation of executory interests, it is altogether void and *not* good even for the twenty-one years. The reason is, that this would have been so before the 39 & 40

Geo. 3, c. 98, and that statute is *not* an enabling, but a restraining act only.

Section 2 of 39 & 40 Geo. 3, c. 98, provides that nothing therein contained shall extend to (1) any provision for payment of debts; or (2), any provision for raising portions for any child or children of any grantor, settlor, or devisor, or any child or children of any person taking any interest under any such conveyance, settlement, or devise; or (3), any direction touching the produce of timber or wood upon any lands or tenements.

CORBYN v. FRENCH.

(*Lead. Cas. Conv.* 456.)

John Brown by his will bequeathed £500 to the trustees of a chapel, to be applied by them towards the discharge of a mortgage on the said chapel. *Decided*:—That this legacy was void under 9 Geo. 2, c. 36.

Notes.—Statute 9 Geo. 2, c. 36 (The Mortmain Act), provided that no land or money to be laid out in purchasing land should be settled for charitable uses unless (1) by deed indented, sealed and delivered in the presence of two or more witnesses; (2), executed twelve calendar months before death of grantor; (3), inrolled in Chancery within six calendar months after execution; and (4), made to take effect in possession immediately from the making, without any reservation or limitation for the benefit of grantor or any person claiming under him. By this statute also in the case of stock it must be transferred six calendar months before the death of the grantor. But in the case of a purchase for valuable consideration actually paid *at or before the making* of the conveyance or transfer, the provisions for execution twelve calendar months before grantor's death, and transfer of stock six calendar months before death, are not to apply. Gifts to either of the two universities, or to the colleges of Eton, Winchester, or West-

minster, for the better support of the scholars upon the foundations of such colleges are excepted from the operation of the statute.

24 Vict. c. 9, does away with the necessity of indenting the deed, and allows of the reservation of a nominal rent and some other reservations, and provides that the assurance shall not be void by reason, in the case of a sale for full and valuable consideration, of such consideration consisting wholly or in part of a rent-charge or other annual payment. But in all reservations allowed by the Act the vendor must reserve the same benefit for his representatives as for himself.

Although this Act allowed the valuable consideration to consist of a rent-charge, yet there was nothing in it to preserve a conveyance reserving such rent from becoming void by the decease of the vendor within twelve calendar months from the date of the deed. 27 Vict. c. 13, therefore provides that any full and valuable consideration, consisting in whole or in part of a rent or other annual payment, shall be as valid as if actually paid at or before the making of the conveyance.

33 & 34 Vict. c. 34, provides that all corporations and trustees holding moneys in trust for any public or charitable purpose may purchase land in accordance with their trust without being deemed to have infringed the Mortmain Act.

34 Vict. c. 13, exempts from the operation of the Mortmain Act gifts and bequests of land or money to purchase lands for the purposes of (1) Parks; (2) School-houses or elementary schools; and (3) Public museums; but provides that the instrument, if voluntary, must be executed twelve calendar months before the death of the testator or grantor, and be enrolled with the Charity Commissioners within six months after coming into operation; and gifts by will are limited to twenty acres for one park, two acres for one museum, and one acre for one school house.

35 & 36 Vict. c. 24, provides for the incorporation of trustees of charities by application to the Charity Commissioners, and for their then becoming a corporate body with perpetual succession, and with power to acquire and hold property; but it expressly provides (s. 1) that nothing therein contained shall be taken or construed to extend, modify, or control any of the provisions of

9 Geo. 2, c. 36, or to make valid any gift, grant, or purchase which would be invalid under that Act.

The above are the most important statutes on the subject of mortmain; but further exceptions to the Mortmain Act exist in favour of sites for schools, literary and scientific institutions, and some other objects.

SHELLEY'S CASE.

(*Lead. Cas. Conv.* 507.)

Decided:—That where the ancestor takes an estate of freehold, and in the same gift or conveyance an estate is limited, either mediately or immediately, to his heirs or the heirs of his body, the word “heirs” is a word of limitation, and not of purchase; so that the ancestor takes the whole estate comprised in the term: that is to say, in the first case, an estate in fee simple; in the second an estate in fee tail.

Notes.—The above “Rule in *Shelley's Case*” applies to equitable as well as legal estates; but where one limitation is legal and the other equitable it does *not* apply.

WILD'S CASE.

(*Lead. Cas. Conv.* 581.)

Decided:—That where there is a devise to a person and his children or issue, and he has no issue at the time of the devise, there such person will take an estate tail.

Notes.—This decision is known as the “Rule in *Wild's Case*,” and the reason of it is, that as the deviser evidently intended that

the devisee's children should take, and they cannot take as immediate devisees, for they are not in existence, nor by way of remainder, because that was not intended; the words shall be taken as words of limitation.

GARDNER v. SHELDON.

(*Lead. Cas. Conv.* 541.)

Decided :—That a devise to B. after the death of A. gives A. an estate for life by implication, *if B. be heir-at-law* of testator; but no estate if he be not heir-at-law.

An heir-at-law cannot be disinherited except by necessary implication.

Notes.—The reason of the above decision is, that if B. is not the heir-at-law, it might possibly be considered that the testator intended that during A.'s life the property should descend to his heir-at-law; but if the subsequent devise be to the heir-at-law, it could not be so considered. However, even in this case no estate by implication will arise if there be a residuary devise, for then it might be considered that it was meant that the residuary devisee should take.

VINER v. FRANCIS.

(*Lead. Cas. Conv.* 702.)

Here a testator bequeathed unto the children of his late sister the sum of £2000, to be equally divided among them, and the question was, what children should take.

Decided :—That those children should take who were living at the death of the testator.

Notes.—It may be useful here to state shortly the rules for construction of testamentary gifts to children:—

(1) That an immediate gift to children, whether of a living or a deceased person, comprehends all those living at testator's death, and those only.

(2) That where a particular interest is carved out, with a gift over to the children of any person, such gift will embrace not only those living at testator's death, but all who come into existence before the period of distribution.

(3) That where the period of distribution is postponed until the attainment of a given age by the children, the gift will apply to all who come into existence before the first child attains that age.

(4) That where there is an immediate gift to children by will, and at the period when distribution takes place there are no children in existence, all the children born at any future period will take.

(5) The words "to be born" will have the effect of extending the gift to all the children who shall ever come into existence. (2 Jarman on Wills, 3rd edition, 142, 165.)

LEVENTHORPE v. ASHBIE.

(*Lead. Cas. Conv.* 763.)

A. devised a term of years to B. and the heirs male of his body begotten. *Decided*:—That B. was absolutely entitled to the term, and that on his death it went to his executors.

Notes.—It is now well established, in accordance with the above case, that a bequest to a person of chattels, whether real or personal, in such terms as would in the case of a devise of real estate have conferred upon him an estate tail, will as a general rule give

him an absolute interest, which on his death will go, not to his heir in tail, but to his personal representative.

ELLIOTT v. DAVENPORT.

(*Lead. Cas. Conv.* 803.)

Testatrix by her will, bequeathed unto Sir William Elliott, his executors, administrators, and assigns, the sum of £400 which he owed her, provided that he should there-out pay several sums to his children; and she directed her executors to deliver up the security and not to claim any part of the debt, but to give such release as the said Sir William Elliott should think fit. Sir W. Elliott died in the lifetime of testatrix.

Decided:—That this was a lapsed legacy; and it was admitted on both sides and agreed to by the Court, that the mere addition of the words “executors, administrators, and assigns,” will not prevent a lapse, for they are but surplusage.

Notes.—The same doctrine applies to a limitation to a man “and his heirs.” A mere declaration that a gift shall not lapse will have no effect if there be no substitution for the person dying in testator’s lifetime; *but if, together with such a declaration*, the gift is to a person and his executors, &c., this will prevent a lapse. The intention of substitution also will be implied, and a lapse thus prevented, where there is a gift to a person “or” his personal representatives.

It must be borne in mind that by 1 Vict. c. 26, ss. 32 & 33, no lapse is to occur (1) in the case of the devise of an estate tail where any issue are living at testator’s death who would be inheritable under such entail, and (2) in the case of a devise or bequest to a child or other issue of the testator who dies leaving issue living at testator’s death.

LORD BRAYBROKE v. INSKIP.

(*Lead. Cas. Conv.* 876.)

Decided:—That by a devise in general terms a trust estate will pass, unless an intention to the contrary can be inferred from expressions in the will, or the purposes or objects of the testator.

PAWLETT v. PAWLETT.

(*Lead. Cas. Conv.* 720.)

Lord Pawlett, by settlement, limited certain lands for the purpose (amongst other things), of raising portions for younger children, payable at twenty-one or marriage. One of the daughters died under twenty-one, and unmarried, and her administratrix instituted this suit to obtain payment of her portion. *Decided*:—That her portion should not be raised for the benefit of her administratrix though it would have been otherwise in the case of a legacy.

STAPLETON v. CHEALES.

(*Lead. Cas. Conv.* 724.)

Decided:—(1) That if a legacy is bequeathed to an infant “payable” or “to be paid” at the age of twenty-one years, it is a vested interest, the time of payment only being postponed, so that it shall go to the personal representatives of the infant, though he die before that age.

(2) But if a legacy is bequeathed to an infant "at" twenty-one, or "if" or "when" he shall attain the age of twenty-one, this is a contingency, and if the legatee dies before the appointed age the legacy is lapsed and shall not go to the personal representatives, *unless interest is given in the meantime.*

HANSON v. GRAHAM.

(*Lead. Cas. Conv. 726.*)

Decided:—That the word "when" standing alone and unqualified in a will is conditional; but that it may be controlled by expressions and circumstances, so as to postpone *not* the vesting but the payment only, as where the interest of the legacy in the interval is directed to be laid out at the discretion of the executors for the benefit of the legatees.

Notes on these three Cases.—The case of *Pawlett v. Pawlett* goes to shew that when the party to be benefited dies a portion shall not be raised, though a legacy under similar circumstances would; while the two latter cases shew when it is that a legacy will be considered an actually vested interest, with payment only postponed, and when it will be but a contingency.

MORLEY v. BIRD.

(*Lead. Cas. Conv. 778.*)

Decided:—That notwithstanding the leaning of the Court to a tenancy in common, in preference to a joint

tenancy, an interest simply given to two or more, either by way of legacy or otherwise, is joint, unless there are words of severance, as "equally among," or words to the like effect, or unless an inference of that sort arises in Equity from the nature of the transaction, as in partnership, &c.

LAKE v. GIBSON.
LAKE v. CRADDOCK.

(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 177.)

Here five persons purchased West Thorock Level from the commissioners of the sewers, and the conveyance was to them as joint tenants in fee, but they contributed rateably to the purchase, which was to the intent of draining the level. Several of them died.

Decided :—That they were tenants in common in equity, for the purchase was for the purpose of a joint undertaking; and though one of these five persons deserted the partnership for thirty years, yet he was afterwards let in on terms.

Notes on these two Cases.—*Morley v. Bird* decides that where property is given to several without anything else, that must be a joint tenancy; and *Lake v. Gibson* and *Lake v. Craddock* shew the leaning of Equity to a tenancy in common, and that a purchase for a joint undertaking, though the conveyance be to the parties as joint tenants, will constitute a tenancy in common; and this decision forcibly illustrates the maxim, "Equality is equity." Although, if persons purchase an estate and pay equal portions of the purchase-money, and take a conveyance in their joint names, this is a joint tenancy (unless for the purpose of some joint undertaking), yet if the purchase-money is paid in unequal

proportions, there will be no survivorship, but they hold the estate in proportion to the sum which each advanced; and in the case of a mortgage to two or more jointly, even though the money is advanced equally, there is no survivorship, but the survivor or survivors will be a trustee or trustees for the personal representatives of the deceased. And the purchase by joint mortgagees of the equity of redemption is unlike an ordinary joint purchase, for they will in Equity still be tenants in common, because the purchase is founded on the mortgage.

LORD GLENORCHY v. BOSVILLE.

(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 1.)

Here Sir Thomas Pershall devised real estates to trustees upon trust, upon the happening of the marriage of his granddaughter Arabella Pershall, to convey the said estates with all convenient speed to the use of the said Arabella Pershall for life, remainder to husband for life, remainder to the issue of her body, with remainder over. *Decided:—* That though Arabella Pershall would have taken an estate tail had it been the case of an immediate devise, yet that the trust being executory, was to be executed in a more careful and more accurate manner, and that a conveyance to Arabella Pershall for life, remainder to her husband for life, with remainder to their first and every other son, with remainder to the daughters, would best serve the testator's intent.

Notes.—The above case clearly shews the distinction between executed and executory trusts. In Snell's 'Principles of Equity' an executed trust is defined as one "when no act is necessary to be done to give effect to it, the trust being finally declared

by the instrument creating it," and an executory trust as "a trust raised either by stipulation or direction in express terms, or by necessary implication to make a settlement or assurance to uses or upon trusts which are indicated in, but do not appear to be finally declared by, the instrument containing such stipulation or direction." The distinction between these two kinds of trusts forms the best illustration that can be given of the true meaning of the maxim, "Equity follows the Law;" for as regards an executed trust, the same construction will be put on it in Equity as at Law; but as regards an executory trust only, where an analogy plainly subsists, and there is no equitable reason to deviate from the rule. A very material distinction should here be noted between trusts executory in marriage articles and trusts executory in wills; for in the former, from the nature of the transaction, the intention of the parties can always be presumed, whilst in the latter it can only be gathered from the words used in the will; and therefore in wills very frequently a construction will be put on such a trust according to the literal meaning, though if the same words had been used in marriage articles, the construction would have been different.

With regard to marriage articles it may be observed, that where there are articles entered into before marriage, and after marriage a settlement is executed, the articles govern; but where both the articles and the settlement are made before the marriage, the parties are concluded by the settlement, unless it recites that it is made in pursuance of the articles, when it will be made subservient to them (see *Legg v. Goldwire*, 1 Lead. Cas. Eq. 17).

ELLISON v. ELLISON.

(1 Lead. Cas. Eq. 245.)

Decided :—That there is this distinction as to volunteers, viz.: The assistance of the Court cannot be had without consideration, to constitute a party *cestui que trust*, as upon a mere voluntary covenant to transfer stock; but

if the legal conveyance is *actually made* constituting the relation of trustee and *cestui que trust*, as if the stock is actually transferred, though without consideration, the equitable interest will be enforced.

Notes.—Where a settlor actually constitutes himself a trustee for volunteers, a Court of Equity will enforce the trusts declared; and such cases as these must be carefully distinguished from those in which it is intended to confer upon persons the whole interest without trustees; thus, if a person disposes of property informally in favour of a volunteer, no assistance will be given in Equity, but if he simply declares himself to be a trustee of that property, a complete trust is created, and the Court will act upon it.

A conveyance or a declaration of trust in favour of a volunteer *cannot* be revoked or avoided, *except* that in the case of an assignment of property in favour of creditors it is revocable until the creditors have assented to the trust, and this whether they are individually named or not.

FOX v. MACKRETH.

(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 115.)

In this case, the defendant Mackreth, being a trustee for the plaintiff Fox of certain property, agreed to buy such property of him for a sum of £39,500, and such agreement was duly carried out, by conveyances being subsequently executed. Mackreth immediately afterwards sold the property to a Mr. Page for £50,500, and the plaintiff discovering this, filed his bill to have advantage of it. *Decided*:—That Mackreth having purchased the estate from his *cestui que trust* while the relation of trustee

and *cestui que trust* continued to subsist between them, and without having communicated to the plaintiff the value of the estate acquired by him as trustee, he must be and was declared a constructive trustee as to the sums produced by the sale to Mr. Page.

Notes.—The true ground of the above decision was *not* the under-value, but, as stated above; but it must be noted that a trustee can purchase from a *cestui que trust* who is *sui juris*, and has discharged him from all the obligations which attached to him as trustee; but even then any such transaction will be viewed by the Court with jealousy.

KEECH v. SANDFORD.

(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 44.)

Here the lease of Rumford Market had been bequeathed to B. in trust for an infant. B. before the expiration of the term applied to the lessor for a renewal of the lease for the benefit of the infant, and this was refused. B. then got a lease made to himself. On this suit being brought by the infant to have the lease assigned to him, *decided*: That B. was a trustee of the lease for the infant and must assign the same to him.

ROBINSON v. PETT.

(2 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 238.)

Decided:—That the Court never allows an executor or trustee for his time and trouble; neither will it alter the

case that the executor renounces, and yet is assisting to the executorship; and this, even though it appears that the executor or trustee has benefited the trust to the prejudice of his own affairs.

Notes on these two Cases.—The above two cases are here placed to immediately follow *Fox v. Mackreth*, as although that case certainly bears on a subject that they do not, viz., *purchases* by a trustee, yet they all in common are decisions on the position of a trustee, and go to shew that he can make no profit from his trust. If he does so, he becomes a constructive trustee of that profit for his *cestui que trust*. A fair contract between trustees or executors and their *cestuis que trust* to receive some compensation for acting is, however, good.

HUGUENIN v. BASELEY.

(2 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 556.)

Here the plaintiff, Mrs. Huguenin, whilst a widow, constituted the defendant her agent, and he undertook the management of her property and affairs; and she afterwards executed a voluntary settlement, in favour of him and his family. Mrs. Huguenin having now married, this suit was brought by her and her husband for the purpose of setting aside the settlement. *Decided*:—That the settlement should be set aside as obtained by undue influence and abused confidence in the defendant as an agent undertaking the management of her affairs; upon the principles of public policy and utility, applicable to the relation of guardian and ward.

Notes.—The above case forms an instance of a constructive fraud, and proceeds upon the ground of the confidential relation existing between the parties; for it is a rule, that when any such confidence exists, and the party in whom it is reposed makes use of it to obtain an advantage to himself at the expense of the party confiding, he will never be allowed to retain any such advantage, however unimpeachable such transaction would have been if no such confidence had existed.

ELLIOTT v. MERRYMAN.

(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 59.)

Decided:—(1) That where real estate is devised to trustees upon trust to sell for payment of debts generally, or charged with payment of debts, the purchaser is *not* bound to see that the money is rightly applied; but if the real estate is devised upon trust to be sold for the payment of certain debts, mentioning to whom in particular those debts are owing, the purchaser is bound to see that the money is applied in payment of those debts.

(2) But that a purchaser of leasehold or other personal estate is never liable to see to the application of the purchase-money—except in cases of fraud—because the executors are the proper persons that by law have the power to dispose of a testator's personal estate.

Notes.—It is now enacted by 22 & 23 Vict. c. 35, s. 23, as follows:—"The *bond fide* payment to, and the receipt of, any person to whom any *purchase or mortgage money* shall be payable upon any express or implied trust, shall effectually discharge the person paying the same from seeing to the application or being answer-

able for the misapplication thereof, unless the contrary shall be expressly declared by the instrument creating the trust or security." It is also enacted, by 23 & 24 Vict. c. 145, s. 29, as follows:—"The receipts in writing of any trustees or trustee for any money payable to them or him by reason, or in the exercise of, any trusts or powers reposed or vested in them or him, shall be sufficient discharges for the money therein expressed to be received, and shall effectually exonerate the persons paying such money from seeing to the application thereof, or from being answerable for any loss or misapplication thereof."

This latter Act is more extensive than the former; but it must be remembered that its provision is *not* retrospective (see sect. 36), whilst the former appears to be. By reason of the joint operation of these enactments the above case has now little *practical* importance.

DERING v. EARL OF WINCHELSEA.

(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 100.)

Here two different bonds had been given to the Crown for the due performance by one Thomas Dering of a certain office, and he becoming in arrear to the Crown, one of the bonds was put in suit, and judgment recovered on it. This suit was then instituted against those who had given the other bond claiming a contribution. *Decided*:—That though the sureties were bound by different instruments, they must contribute, for the doctrine of contribution amongst sureties is not founded in contract, but is the result of general equity, on the ground of equality of burthen and benefit.

Notes.—And this right of a surety to enforce contribution against co-sureties will not be affected by his ignorance at the

time he became surety that they also were co-sureties. Courts of Common Law can also compel contribution between sureties; but there is this important distinction between contribution in Equity and at Common Law: in Equity the contribution is with reference to the time when it is sought to be enforced, but at Common Law with reference to the number of sureties originally liable. Thus: A., B., and C. are sureties, and A. is forced to pay the whole amount. B. has become insolvent, nevertheless at Common Law A. can only recover a third from C., though in Equity he can recover half. Further, if a surety dies, contribution can be enforced in Equity as against his representatives; but at Common Law the surviving sureties only can be sued (see *Batard v. Hawes*, 2 Ell. & B. 287).

DYER v. DYER.

(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 203.)

Here one Simon Dyer paid the purchase-money for certain property, and took the conveyance to himself, his wife Mary, and a son William, jointly. Simon Dyer survived his wife and then died, devising all his interest in these premises to the plaintiff, who filed his bill against the son William, insisting that as the purchase-money was all paid by Simon Dyer, the son William, the defendant, was but a trustee.

Decided:—That though if no relationship existed there would be a resulting trust in favour of the person paying the purchase-money; yet the circumstance of the nominee being the child of the purchaser, operated to rebut the resulting trust, and the defendant took the property beneficially as an advancement from his father.

Notes.—The presumption of advancement does not only arise in favour of a child, but also in favour of a wife. Where a conveyance is taken in the name of a stranger, and therefore by equitable presumption a resulting trust arises, such resulting trust may be rebutted by parol evidence shewing that the person who paid the purchase-money really intended that the person in whose name the conveyance is taken should take the property for his own benefit.

MACKRETH v. SYMONS.

(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 289.)

Decided :—(1) That a vendor's lien for unpaid purchase-money, unless relinquished, exists against all persons except purchasers for valuable consideration without notice having the legal estate.

(2) That another security taken and relied on may, according to its nature and the circumstances under which taken, be evidence of relinquishment, but the proof is on the purchaser.

Notes.—A vendor's lien may be defined as that hold or charge on property which a person has who has sold the same, but has not received the purchase-money, or the whole of it. This lien exists even though the deed expresses that the consideration is paid, and a receipt is indorsed on it. It must be borne in mind that (as decided in the above case) the taking of a security is only an evidence of relinquishment by the vendor of his lien; and as a general rule, the taking of a mere personal security will not deprive the vendor of his lien, though, if he take a totally distinct and independent security, the lien is usually lost.

The amount of the purchase-money for which a vendor's lien existed was, of course, payable out of the vendee's general personal estate; but now, in consequence of 30 & 31 Vict. c. 69, s. 2, it is primarily payable out of the land in respect of which it exists.

BRODIE v. BARRY.

(2 V. & B. 127.)

Here property was bequeathed to a person who was testator's heiress to heritable property in Scotland, a disposition of which was made by the will, but in a manner not conformable to the law of Scotland, so that it did not pass under the will, and the question was whether the heiress should be allowed both to take the benefits given to her by the will and the property, which being thus informally dealt with, descended to her as heir-at-law, or whether she should be put to her election. *Decided*:—That the Scotch heiress could *not* take both the benefits given her by the will and the property, which being informally dealt with would descend to her; but that she must elect between them.

Notes.—The doctrine of election is stated, in Snell's 'Principles of Equity,' to originate in inconsistent or alternative donations, and it consists in the choosing by a person between two rights where there is an intention, express or implied, that they shall not both be enjoyed. The above case is given here in preference to those of *Noys v. Mordaunt* and *Streatfield v. Streatfield*, set out in Messrs. White and Tudor's work, as it forms a very simple and striking example of the doctrine.

It is important to remember that when a person elects against an instrument—that is, refuses to give up his own property—he does not always absolutely forfeit the benefits given him by it, but only so much thereof as will compensate the disappointed party. Thus, if a testator gives to A. £1000, and to B. a house of small value to which A. is entitled, and A. refuses to conform to the testator's will, he is only bound to give up so much of the £1000 as the house is worth, so as to compensate B.

COUNTESS OF STRATHMORE v. BOWES.

(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 406.)

Lady Strathmore, during her engagement of marriage with one Mr. Grey, conveyed and assigned her property to trustees for her separate use, with his approbation. Afterwards hearing that defendant Bowes had fought a duel on her account, she married him. Bowes had no notice of the settlement. *Decided*:—That a conveyance by a wife, whatsoever may be the circumstances, and even the moment before the marriage, is *primâ facie* good, and becomes bad only upon the imputation of fraud, and that if a woman in the course of a treaty of marriage with her makes, without notice to the intended husband, a conveyance of any part of her property, it will be set aside because affected with that fraud, but that this case was different, the settlement indeed being with the sanction of the then intended husband, and so the settlement here was established.

Notes.—A secret conveyance by a woman pending marriage is a fraud on the husband's marital rights, although he did not know she had any property.

There is one exception to the general rule laid down in *Countess of Strathmore v. Bowes*, and that is in the case of the previous seduction by a man of his intended wife; for it has been held that, as the husband has by his conduct before the marriage put it out of the wife's power to make any stipulation for settlement of her property, retirement being impossible on her part, a secret settlement made by her shall not be set aside. It was also supposed that another exception existed in the case of a fair settlement by a

widow upon her children by a former marriage, but the authorities do not appear to warrant this, and it cannot therefore be considered as an exception.

LADY ELIBANK v. MONTOLIEU.

(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 424.)

Decided:—That a married woman may, by her next friend, maintain a suit in the Court of Chancery to assert her equity to a settlement on herself and children out of property to which she is entitled; and here the settlement on marriage being inadequate, a further settlement decreed in favour of the plaintiff Lady Elibank.

MURRAY v. LORD ELIBANK.

(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 431.)

This case arose out of the foregoing one. After decree in that suit, but before any settlement in pursuance thereof, Lady Elibank died intestate, and this bill was filed by her infant children for the carrying out of the settlement in their favour notwithstanding her death. *Decided*:—That the wife obtained by the decree in the suit of *Lady Elibank v. Montolieu* a judgment for the children, liable to be waived if she thought proper; otherwise to be left standing for their benefit at her death.

Notes.—It must, however, be remembered that the equity to a settlement is strictly personal to the wife, and that the children

have no independent equity of their own; so that if Lady Eli-bank had died before decree her children would not have been entitled to any settlement. If the settlement on a woman's marriage is perfectly adequate, no further settlement will be decreed; but when a settlement is decreed, the amount to be settled is *usually and in the absence of special circumstances* one-half of the property. If after marriage a settlement of property is made upon the wife voluntarily in consideration of her equity to a settlement, it is good as against creditors if the Court would, under the circumstances, have decreed one, had application been made to it for the purpose.

The wife's equity to a settlement forms a good example of the maxim, "He who seeks equity must do equity."

HULME v. TENANT.

(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 481.)

This bill was filed by the obligee of a bond entered into by the defendants (husband and wife) against the husband and wife, and her surviving trustee, to recover the sums secured out of the wife's separate estate. *Decided*:—That the bond of a married woman jointly with her husband shall bind her separate property.

HUNTINGDON v. HUNTINGDON.

(2 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 1010.)

Here the Countess of Huntingdon joined with her husband, the Earl, in a mortgage of her estate of inheritance, for his purposes, and the Earl covenanted to pay the

money. He did pay the money, but took an assignment to himself. The mortgage being for a term of years, the Earl devised it for the benefit of his younger children. The Countess died, and also the Earl, and the eldest son filed a bill claiming as heir to the Countess to have the estate freed from the mortgage and the claims of the younger children. *Decided*:—That he was so entitled, as the wife's estate was but as surety.

TULLETT v. ARMSTRONG.

(1 *Beav.* 1.)

Here a testator gave certain property to trustees in trust for his wife for life, with remainder to the defendant Mrs. Armstrong (then unmarried) for life in such manner *that it should not be anticipated*, and that no husband should acquire any control over it, and the questions were as to the effect of a gift to the separate use of a woman unmarried at the time, and the effect of the clause against anticipation. *Decided*:—That both the separate use clause and the restriction against alienation became effectual on the subsequent marriage, and that such a restraint against alienation is annexed to the separate estate only, and the separate estate has its existence only during coverture, but that whilst the woman is discovert the separate estate, whether modified by restraint or not, is suspended, and has no operation, though it is capable of arising upon the happening of a marriage.

Notes on these three Cases.—Although the separate estate of a married woman may frequently be made liable for her debts, as shewn in *Hulme v. Tenant*, yet no personal decree can be made against her. As a general rule, this separate estate, unless restrained from anticipation, will be liable for “all debts, &c., which she expressly charges, or which, judging from the nature thereof, it may be fairly inferred that she intended to charge, on her separate estate.” Thus, a promissory note signed by her will bind it; and if she of her own accord employs a solicitor, it will be liable for his charges. In considering the liability of the wife’s separate estate, statute 33 & 34 Vict. c. 93, ss. 12, 13, and 14, must be borne in mind.

The case of *Huntingdon v. Huntingdon* goes to shew, that though the wife’s separate estate may have been charged, yet when it is but for the purposes of the husband, it is but as surety for him, and he must ultimately discharge the liability, notwithstanding the way in which the estate was dealt with afterwards. Thus, in that case, the Earl of Huntingdon, on paying off the money, took an assignment of the property to himself, and yet the heir of the wife was held to be entitled to it. But that case must be taken with this limitation, or rather addition, viz., that if the wife’s intention clearly appears to have been to alter the limitation of the equity of redemption, effect will be given to that intention. No such intention appeared in that case.

Tullett v. Armstrong is given above as establishing and plainly shewing the effect of the now usual clause against anticipation.

EARL OF CHESTERFIELD v. JANSSEN.

(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 541.)

In this case one Mr. Spencer, at the age of 30, had borrowed £5000 of defendant on the terms of paying £10,000 if he survived his grandmother, from whom he had large expectations, and who was then of the age of

78 years, and nothing if he did not. He did survive her, and after her death gave a bond for payment of the £10,000, and paid a part. Mr. Spencer having since died, his executor brought this suit to be relieved against this contract as usurious and unconscionable. *Decided*:—Not usurious, and (without deciding whether relief would have been given against the original transaction) no relief could now be given, Mr. Spencer having by his acts after his grandmother's death ratified the transaction.

EARL OF AYLESFORD v. MORRIS.

(*Weekly Notes*, 1872, p. 224 ; *Weekly Notes*, 1873, p. 52 (*on appeal*).)

Here the plaintiff, soon after he came of age, and whilst his father was living, borrowed from the defendant, who was a money-lender, sums amounting to about £7000, for which he gave bills at 60 per cent. These bills were renewed, and after the death of plaintiff's father, defendant sued plaintiff on the bills, and this suit was brought for an injunction to restrain the actions on payment by the plaintiff of the sums advanced and interest at 5 per cent. *Decided*:—That the Plaintiff was entitled to the relief sought, and that the fact of his being an actual tenant in tail in remainder (as the case was) instead of being merely an expectant heir made no difference.

Notes on these two Cases.—*Chesterfield v. Janssen* is the leading case on that branch of constructive fraud designated in Snell's

'Principles of Equity' as constructive frauds, as being unconscionable or injurious to the rights of third parties. For although in that case no relief was given because of confirmation by Mr. Spencer of the transaction, yet the particular subject of bargains with expectant heirs was there much considered. As to these, the rule in Equity is to set them aside, unless the purchaser can shew that he paid full consideration, and that the bargain being made known to those to whose estate the expectant was hoping to succeed, was approved of by them. This relief thus given to expectant heirs was formerly also given to remaindermen and reversioners, but is so no longer, 31 Vict. c. 4, s. 1, enacting that "No purchase, made *bond fide* and without fraud or unfair dealing, of any reversionary interest in real or personal estate shall hereafter be opened or set aside merely on the ground of undervalue;" and by sect. 2 the word "purchase" used in sect. 1 has an extended meaning.

The case of *Earl of Aylesford v. Morris* is the most recent decision on the subject of bargains from expectant heirs; and whilst the former principles and rules on the subject are confirmed, they seem also to be a little extended, for in that case the plaintiff was not simply an expectant heir, but he was an actual tenant in tail in remainder, and yet it was held that this made no difference, and relief was given.

MARSH v. LEE.

(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 611.)

Decided :—That if a third mortgagee having advanced his money, *without notice of a second mortgage*, afterwards buy in a first mortgage or statute, yet the third mortgagee having obtained the first mortgage or statute, and having the law on his side and equal equity, he shall thereby squeeze out and gain priority over the second mortgagee.

BRACE v. DUCHESS OF MARLBOROUGH.

(2 P. Wms. 491.)

Decided:—That if a judgment creditor, or creditor by statute or recognizance, buys in the first mortgage he shall *not* tack this to his judgment, &c., and thereby gain a preference, *for he did not advance his money on the immediate credit of the land*; but if a first mortgagee lends a further sum to the mortgagor upon a statute or judgment he shall retain against a mesne mortgagee till both the mortgage and statute or judgment be paid.

Notes on these two Cases.—In the latter of the above two cases the doctrine of tacking was much considered, and a number of rules on the subject were stated, but the points above set out are the most important to remember in connection with the decision in *Marsh v. Lee*. It is very important to know accurately when tacking will be allowed, and when not, and the student will be more likely to remember the distinctions if he bears in mind that tacking is *not* allowed when the money was not originally advanced on the immediate credit of the land.

The doctrine of tacking forms a good illustration of the maxim, “Where the equities are equal the law shall prevail;” for the third mortgagee being without notice of the intervening incumbrance, has as good a title in conscience as such incumbrancer, and by getting hold of the first mortgage, &c., he has the law on his side.

BASSETT v. NOSWORTHY.

(2 Lead. Cas. Eq. 1.)

This bill was filed by an heir-at-law against a person claiming as purchaser from a devisee under the will of his

ancestor to discover a revocation of the will, and the defendant pleaded that he was a purchaser for valuable consideration *bonâ fide*, without notice of any revocation.

Decided :—That this plea was good, and upon proof of it, the bill was dismissed.

Notes.—The above case is inserted here so as to follow those on the doctrine of tacking, as it forms another illustration of the maxim, “Where the equities are equal the law shall prevail.”

As an extension of the above case, it should be noted that where a person has the best right to call for the legal estate, he will be entitled to the protection of Equity in the same way as if he had actually obtained it.

DUKE OF ANCASTER v. MAYER.

(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 630.)

Decided :—That the general personal estate is primarily liable to the payment of the debts of the testator, unless exempted by express words or by necessary implication.

Notes.—It may be useful to give here a short statement of, first, the order in which assets are applied in payment of debts; and, secondly, when the general personal estate is not the primary fund for that purpose.

Firstly. The order is as follows :—

- (1) The general personal estate.
- (2) Estates devised for the particular purpose of paying debts.
- (3) Estates descended.
- (4) Property devised or bequeathed to particular devisees or legatees, but charged with payment of debts.
- (5) (a) General legacies; (b) Lands comprised in a residuary devise; (c) Specific legacies and specifically devised

lands. (This is in accordance with the decision in *Hensman v. Fryer*, L. R. 3 Ch. Ap. 420; but formerly it was considered that these assets were only applicable in the order named. See hereon the observations of Mr. Snell in his 'Principles of Equity,' 2nd ed. pp. 234, 235.)

- (6) Property over which the person whose estate is being administered has exercised a general power of appointment.

Secondly. The personal estate is *not* the primary fund for payment of debts in the following cases :—

- (1) Where it is exempted by express words.
- (2) Where it is exempted by testator's manifest intention; and on this point the fact that the testator has charged his real estate is not alone sufficient, but he must also have shewn that it was his purpose that the personal estate should not be applied.
- (3) Where the debt forming the charge or incumbrance is in its own nature real.
- (4) Where the debt was not contracted by the person whose estate is being administered, but by some one else from whom he or his vendor took it, as in the case of a mortgage created by an ancestor.
- (5) In cases coming within the provisions of 17 & 18 Vict. c. 113, or 30 & 31 Vict. c. 69.

RUSSEL v. RUSSEL.

(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 674.)

Here a lease had been pledged with the plaintiff by a person since bankrupt, and the plaintiff now brought his bill against the assignees for a sale of the leasehold estate.

Decided:—That the deposit created a good equitable mortgage.

Notes.—An equitable mortgage by deposit of title deeds is now of common occurrence, but the above case is cited to shew that such a transaction is good, notwithstanding the 4th section of the Statute of Frauds (29 Car. 2, c. 3)—a point which was previously, and with reason, much doubted.

CUDDEE v. RUTTER.

(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 786.)

Decided :—That a bill in equity will not lie for specific performance of an agreement to transfer a certain sum of South Sea Stock, for there is no difference between that and any other like sum of stock, and no damage occasioned by the non-performance of the agreement specifically, if the difference is paid.

SETON v. SLADE.

(2 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 513.)

Here plaintiff had agreed to sell certain property to defendant, and it was understood that he should make a good title in two months, and defendant gave him a notice that if he did not do so he should insist on the return of his deposit with interest. The plaintiff, however, only delivered his abstract a few days before the expiration of the two months, which the defendant then received and kept without objection. *Decided* :—That the vendee upon construction of the circumstances was not entitled to insist on time as of the essence of the contract, and so specific performance decreed.

LESTER v. FOXCROFT.(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 768.)

Here a certain *parol* contract had been made for the pulling down by the plaintiff of certain houses and the building up of others, and the granting of a lease thereof to him, and he had in pursuance and part performance of such *parol* contract pulled down the houses and built some of the others. The plaintiff brought this bill for specific performance of the contract. *Decided* :—That the plaintiff was entitled to a decree for specific performance notwithstanding the Statute of Frauds, because of the acts of part performance on his part.

WOOLAM v. HEARN.(2 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 484.)

Decided :—That though a defendant resisting specific performance may go into *parol* evidence to shew that by fraud the written agreement does not express the real terms, a plaintiff cannot do so for the purpose of obtaining specific performance with a variation.

Notes on these four Cases.—These cases are placed together as all relating to the subject of specific performance. *Cuddee v. Rutter* plainly shews the nature of the contracts of which specific performance will be granted, viz., those for the breach whereof damages will not fully compensate; and *Seton v. Slade* shews that though terms may not have been strictly complied with, yet specific performance may be decreed. But in such a case the Court will take care to make proper compensation. And this principle of decreeing specific performance with compensation is applied where the vendor seeks specific performance and has not exactly

the interest he contracted to sell, but the difference is not material; but a purchaser cannot be forced to accept lands of a different tenure to what he contracted to buy, for this is not considered a matter for compensation.

The decision in *Lester v. Foxcroft* is upon the ground, that after a person has been allowed to do acts in part performance, it would be a fraud on the part of the person who has allowed him to do such acts not to perform his part of the contract. Acts to be a part performance must be exclusively referable to the agreement, and such acts as payment of purchase-money, delivery of abstract, and the like, are *not* sufficient part performance; but letting a purchaser into possession is.

There are also two other cases in which specific performance of a parol contract will be decreed; and they are stated by Mr. Snell in his 'Principles of Equity' to be (1) where it is fully set forth in the bill, and is confessed by the answer of the defendant, who does not insist on the statute as a defence; and (2) where the agreement was intended to be reduced into writing according to the statute, but that was prevented by the fraud of one of the parties.

With regard to the decision in *Woolam v. Hearn*, though good as a general rule, yet it must be noted that there are three cases in which a plaintiff may obtain specific performance with a subsequent parol variation, and they are of a similar nature to the three cases above stated in which specific performance will be decreed of an original parol contract, viz. (1) after such acts of part performance of the parol variation; (2) where defendant sets up the parol variation, and plaintiff seeks specific performance with it; and (3) where it has not been put into writing because of fraud. It will be seen that these cases are of an exactly similar nature to those above stated, in which specific performance will be decreed of an original parol contract.

Although by the C. L. P. Act, 1854 (17 & 18 Vict. c. 125), an action of *mandamus* is given at law to compel the performance of certain duties in the fulfilment of which the plaintiff is personally interested, yet it has been decided that a person cannot be compelled under that Act to perform a contract entered into by him. (*Benson v. Paul*, 25 L. J. (Q. B.) 274.)

PUSEY v. PUSEY.

(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 820.)

The plaintiff brought this bill for specific delivery up of a certain horn which in ancient time was delivered to his ancestors to hold their land by. The defendant demurred to this bill. *Decided*:—That the demurrer must be overruled, and that the heir was well entitled to the horn.

DUKE OF SOMERSET v. COOKSON.

(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 821.)

The plaintiff, as lord of a certain manor, was entitled as treasure-trove to an old altar-piece made of silver, remarkable for a Greek inscription and dedication to Hercules, and the defendant had obtained possession of the same. This suit was brought to obtain its delivery up in specie undefaced, and the defendant demurred. *Decided*:—That this demurrer must be overruled.

Notes on these two Cases.—In the same way that the Court of Chancery will only decree specific performance of a contract when it is one for the breach whereof damages will not compensate, so the reason of the above decisions was that the chattel was of such a nature that the loss of it could not be fully compensated for by damages. There is, however, one case in which Equity will decree specific delivery of a chattel though of no peculiar value, and that is where there subsists some fiduciary relation between the parties. Specific delivery of a chattel may now, to a certain extent, be obtained at law, for by the C. L. P. Act, 1854

(17 & 18 Vict. c. 125) s. 78, the Court may, upon the application of the plaintiff in an action for the detention of a chattel, order that execution shall issue for the return of the same without giving the defendant the option of retaining it, upon paying the value assessed; but a Court of Law under this enactment can only proceed to enforce the delivery by distringas, whilst a decree in Equity for specific delivery can be enforced by attachment. Also, by 19 & 20 Vict. c. 97, s. 2, the Courts of Law have a further power of this nature given them, and in cases in which generally Equity would not interfere, for it is enacted, that on a verdict for plaintiff in an action for breach of contract to deliver specific goods for a price of money, on the application of the plaintiff, and by leave of the judge, the jury shall find, (1) What are the goods in respect of which action is brought; (2) What (if anything) the plaintiff would have been liable to pay for delivery thereof; (3) What damages (if any) the plaintiff will be entitled to if the goods are delivered in execution as thereafter mentioned; and (4) What damages if not so delivered. And thereupon, on the plaintiff's application, the judge may order execution to be issued *for delivery of the goods themselves* on payment by the plaintiff of the sum (if anything) found by the jury to be paid by him, *without giving the defendant the option of retaining the same* upon paying the damages assessed.

FLETCHER v. ASHBURNER.

(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 826.)

Decided:—That it is an established principle that money directed to be employed in the purchase of land, and land directed to be sold and turned into money, are to be considered as that species of property into which they are directed to be converted; and this, in whatever way the direction is given; and, therefore, in this case that

real estate having been ordered to be sold, it became personalty, and went accordingly.

ACKROYD v. SMITHSON.

(1 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 872.)

Here the testator gave several legacies, and ordered his real and personal estate to be sold, his debts and legacies to be paid out of the proceeds arising from the sale, and the residue thereof he gave to certain legatees. Two of these residuary legatees died in the testator's lifetime; and this bill was filed by the next of kin of the testator claiming these lapsed shares, and the question was whether such shares—being originally composed partly of real and partly of personal estate—belonged to the next of kin as being converted into personalty, or whether the part originally composed of real estate resulted as real estate, and therefore descended to the heir-at-law of the testator.

Decided:—That so far as the shares were originally constituted of personal estate they should go to the next of kin; but so far as they originally consisted of real estate they should go to the heir-at-law.

Notes on these two Cases.—"Equity looks on that as done which ought to be done." It is upon this maxim that the case of *Fletcher v. Ashburner* proceeds, and that case, or more generally the whole doctrine of conversion, forms indeed the best illustration of this maxim. Conversion has been well defined as "that change

in the nature of property by which, for certain purposes, real estate is considered as personal, and personal estate as real, and transmissible and descendible as such." To effect a conversion it is necessary that the direction to convert be imperative and *not* optional, and a direction to convert at the request of certain parties will be held imperative unless it is inserted for the purpose of giving a discretion to those parties.

The case of *Ackroyd v. Smithson* is sometimes confused by students with that of *Fletcher v. Ashburner* as simply deciding the doctrine of conversion, and they are chiefly for that reason considered here together. *Ackroyd v. Smithson* is of course quite beyond the doctrine of conversion, and forms an instance of a resulting trust, and shews that where the purposes of the conversion fail there the property shall remain and go in its original state; thus if a testator devises to trustees to sell and divide the proceeds between two persons, and they die during the testator's lifetime, the property remains in its original state, and if only one of the parties dies, there as to his moiety there will be no conversion, but it will go according to its original quality, and the principle of this is, that where an estate is converted merely for a particular purpose and that fails, the Court will not infer an intention to convert for any other purpose. *Ackroyd v. Smithson* is only on the point of a resulting trust in the case of *real* estate directed to be sold, and it was at first doubted whether the rule there established applied to the case of *money* directed to be laid out in the purchase of land to be settled upon trusts which either wholly or partially failed; but it has now long been decided that it does so apply.

LE NEVE v. LE NEVE.

(2 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 35.)

Here lands in Middlesex were settled by a deed which was *not* registered. Many years afterwards they were settled on a second marriage, and the settlement was

duly registered; but the agent of the person taking the lands under the second settlement had notice of the former. *Decided*:—That the object of the Register Act being only to secure subsequent purchasers and mortgagees against *prior secret conveyances* and fraudulent conveyances, the former settlement should be preferred because of the notice, and that notice to an agent or trustee is notice to the principal.

Notes.—An interest in property is often rendered subservient to a prior interest by reason of notice, where, if there had been no such notice, the latter would have had the preference. Notice may be either actual or constructive, which last is, in fact, only evidence of notice the presumption of which is so violent that the Court will not allow of its being controverted; and whatever is sufficient to put a person upon inquiry is constructive notice of everything to which that inquiry might have led; thus absence of title deeds may constitute constructive notice of some prior interest, but if their absence is satisfactorily accounted for it will not.

It should be mentioned that the mere fact of the registration of a deed affecting lands in a register county is not of itself notice, so that a prior equitable incumbrance will not, although registered, affect a subsequent purchaser without notice who has obtained the legal estate.

HOWE v. EARL OF DARTMOUTH.

(2 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 320.)

Decided:—That it is a general rule that where personal property is bequeathed for life with remainders over, and not specifically, it is to be converted into the three per

cents., subject in the case of a real security to an inquiry, whether it will be for the benefit of all parties, and the tenant for life is entitled only upon this principle; thus wasting property is converted for the benefit of persons in remainder, future interests for the benefit of the tenant for life.

Notes.—But the testator may by his will shew an intention that the property as it then exists shall be specifically enjoyed, and the Court rather leans in favour of this construction so far as it is consistent with the decision in the above case.

HOOLEY v. HATTON.

(2 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 346.)

Lady Finch, by her will, gave the plaintiff a legacy of £500, and afterwards, by a codicil, a legacy of £1000, and the question was whether the last legacy alone passed or the legatee should have both. *Decided*:—That the plaintiff was entitled to both legacies; but that if a legacy of the same amount is given twice for the same cause, and in the same act, and in the same, or nearly the same, words, then it will *not* be double; but where in *different* writings there is a bequest of equal, greater, or less sums, it is an augmentation.

Notes.—Although it would appear from this case that if the legacies are given by different instruments, they will never be considered as a repetition, yet this is not quite so, for even then, if they are for the same sum *and* the same motive, the Court presumes that they are but a repetition, but both these coincidences must exist.

It is important to observe whether extrinsic evidence can be given to shew whether a testator intended a legacy to be by way of augmentation or as a repetition, as if so the rules laid down in the above case might often be altered, and it is established on this point that where the Court raises the presumption against double legacies it will receive parol evidence to shew that the testator actually intended the double gift he has expressed, for that but rebuts the presumption of the Court, and supports the apparent intention of the will; but where the Court raises no presumption, as where legacies are given by different instruments, it will not admit parol evidence to shew testator only meant the legatee to take one, for that would be to contradict the will.

EX PARTE PYE.

(2 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 365.)

Decided:—(1) That as a general rule, where a parent gives a legacy to a child, not stating the purpose with reference to which he gives it, he is understood to give a portion; and in consequence of the leaning against double portions, if the parent afterwards advances a portion on the marriage of the child, the presumption arises that it was intended to be a satisfaction of the legacy either wholly or in part; and this applies where a person puts himself *in loco parentis*.

(2.) But no such presumption arises in the case of a stranger or of a natural child, where the donor has *not* put himself *in loco parentis*, unless the subsequent advance is proved to be for the very purpose of satisfying the legacy; and therefore the legatee will be entitled to both.

TALBOT v. DUKE OF SHREWSBURY.

(2 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 379.)

Decided :—That if a debtor, without taking notice of the debt, bequeaths a sum as great as, or greater than, the debt, to his creditor, this is a satisfaction ; but it is not a satisfaction if it is bequeathed on a contingency, or if it were less than the debt.

CHANCEY'S CASE.

(2 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 380.)

Testator during his lifetime, and before making his will, gave his servant a bond for £100. He afterwards made his will and bequeathed her £500, *and directed that all his debts and legacies should be paid.*

Decided :—That the legacy was not here a satisfaction of the debt, because it was attended with particular circumstances varying it from the common rule, for the testator had directed that all his debts and legacies should be paid.

Notes on these three Cases.—These three cases are all authorities on and illustrations of the doctrine of satisfaction, the first being as to satisfaction of legacies by portions, and the latter two as to satisfaction of debts by legacies. Satisfaction may be defined as the giving by a person liable to some claim of the donee, of something different from the subject of such claim, but intended in substitution thereof. The cases where satisfaction occurs have been divided into four clauses ; viz. (1), the satisfaction of debts by legacies ; (2), satisfaction of legacies by subsequent legacies ;

(3), the satisfaction of legacies by portions; and (4), the satisfaction of portions by legacies (see Snell's 'Principles of Equity,' 2nd ed., 197). It is important to remember the great difference that exists in satisfaction in the case of portions on the one hand, and in the case of legacies to creditors on the other; for in the first case Equity, leaning against double portions, will be in favour of the satisfaction, but in the latter case it is just the opposite, for Equity will take hold of slight circumstances to rebut the presumption of satisfaction that would otherwise arise, and this is well exemplified by *Chancey's Case*.

WILCOCKS v. WILCOCKS.

(2 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 415.)

The plaintiff's father, upon his marriage, covenanted to purchase lands of the value of £200 per annum, and settle the same upon himself for life and to his first and other sons in tail. He purchased lands of that value, but made no settlement or disposition thereof, so that they descended to the plaintiff as heir-at-law. *Decided*:—That the plaintiff was not entitled to specific performance of the covenant, but that the lands descended must be taken as a performance or satisfaction thereof.

BLANDY v. WIDMORE.

(2 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 417.)

In marriage articles the husband covenanted to leave his wife £620 if she should survive him. He died intestate, and the wife's share, under the Statute of Distributions, far exceeded £620. *Decided*:—That the wife

was *not* entitled to have the £620 *and* her distributive share, but the distributive share must be taken as a satisfaction or performance of the covenant.

Notes on these two Cases.—The doctrine of “Performance” which is illustrated by the above cases bears rather closely on that of satisfaction; but on a very short consideration of the subject, and a comparison of the cases on satisfaction (see pp. 49–51) with those above given on performance, the distinction will be obvious. The distinction has been stated to be that “satisfaction implies the substitution or gift of something different from the thing agreed to be given, but equivalent to it in the eye of the law, while in cases of performance the thing agreed to be done is in truth wholly or in part performed.” *Wilcocks v. Wilcocks* and *Blandy v. Widmore* exemplify the maxim, which is shortly stated, as “Equity imputes an intention to fulfil an obligation.” In *Wilcocks v. Wilcocks* it will be seen that the lands there purchased were of equal value with those covenanted to be settled, but it has been since decided that even where the lands purchased are of less value, they shall be considered as in part performance of the covenant.

It should be mentioned that it has been decided that although a distributive share on an intestacy will be taken as performance of a covenant, yet a gift by will of a sum of money as a residue will not so operate *per se*, because it imports bounty.

EYRE v. COUNTESS OF SHAFTESBURY.

(2 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 645.)

The former Earl of Shaftesbury, by his will, gave the guardianship of his infant son to the plaintiff and two others, since deceased, without expressing that it was to be to the survivor of them, and the plaintiff now prayed that the infant (who was in his mother's custody) might

be delivered up to him as his guardian. *Decided*:—That though the guardianship was only given to the three persons, without saying, “and to the survivors or survivor of them,” yet the survivor—the plaintiff—should have it.

Afterwards, when the infant was of the age of fourteen years, his mother, the Countess, procured his marriage with one Lady Susannah Noel, without the consent or privity of the plaintiff, the guardian. *Decided*:—That the Countess was liable for a contempt of Court, although the marriage was in other respects proper.

Notes.—There are properly six species of guardianship, viz. (1) By nature; (2) By nurture; (3) In socage; (4) By statute; (5) By appointment of the Court of Chancery; (6) *Ad litem*. There is also guardianship by custom, and the quite obsolete species of guardianship by election.

The above is the leading case on the nature of the guardianship and the guardian's powers under the statute of 12 Car. 2, c. 24. That statute gives the *father** the power by deed executed in writing, or by his last will and testament, to appoint the custody and tuition of such of his children as at the time of his death are neither of full age nor married until they attain the age of twenty-one years, or during any less period. This statute of course only gives the power to the *father*; but a stranger may, to a certain extent, appoint a guardian, for such an appointment will be effectual if there is a legacy to the father conditional on his giving up the guardianship, which legacy the father elects to take, or if it is manifestly for the benefit of the infants, and the duty of the father to acquiesce in the appointment; but the benefit to the infant must be a solid consideration, and not merely expectations.

* The above statute gives this power to the father, whether he is of full age or not; but now, as by the Wills Act (1 Vict. c. 26) an infant cannot make a valid will, he cannot appoint a guardian by will.

By statute 2 & 3 Vict. c. 54, it is provided that judges in Equity may make orders on petition for the access of mothers to their infant children, and if such children be within the age of seven years for delivery of them into the mother's custody until attaining such age of seven years; but no order is to be made under this provision in favour of a mother against whom adultery has been established.

STAPILTON v. STAPILTON.

(2 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 824.)

Decided:— That an agreement entered into upon a supposition of a right, or of a doubtful right, though it after comes out that the right was on the other side, shall be binding, and the right shall not prevail against the agreement of the parties; for the right must always be on one side or the other, and therefore the compromise of a doubtful right is a sufficient foundation of an agreement.

That where agreements are entered into to save the honour of a family, and are reasonable ones, a Court of Equity will, if possible, decree a performance of them.

GORDON v. GORDON.

(3 *Swanst.* 400.)

Here there had been an agreement between two brothers for the settlement of the family estates, as the younger disputed the elder's legitimacy. At the time of the agreement, however, the younger brother was aware of a private marriage that had taken place, and this was

not communicated to the other. The legitimacy of the elder brother was afterwards established, and although some nineteen years had elapsed, *Decided*:—That the agreement must be rescinded because of the concealment by the younger brother of the fact of the private marriage, and that it mattered not whether the omission to disclose it originated in design or in an honest opinion of the invalidity of the ceremony and a want of obligation on his part to make the communication.

Notes on these two Cases.—The rule as to family compromises is laid down in Snell's 'Principles of Equity' (2nd ed., p. 360), thus:—"In order that a transaction not otherwise valid may be supported upon the ground of it being a family arrangement, there must be a full and fair communication of all material circumstances affecting the subject matter of the agreement which are within the knowledge of the several parties, whether such information be asked for by the other party or not."

Stapilton v. Stapilton is given in Messrs. White and Tudor's Book as the leading case on this subject; but the facts and decision in *Gordon v. Gordon* are also given above, as it is thought that it constitutes a more forcible illustration of the subject.

BRICE v. STOKES.

(2 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 865.)

The question in this case was, whether a trustee should be charged with certain purchase-money, which, though he had joined in the receipt, had been received by his co-trustee. *Decided*:—That *under the particular circumstance* of the case he was liable to be charged, the sale being

unnecessary, and he permitting his co-trustee to keep and act with the money contrary to the trust; but that he should not be charged in respect of the interest of one of the *cestuis que trust* who had notice of the breach of trust and acquiesced therein; and it was laid down that there is this great distinction between trustees and executors, viz., that though where trustees or executors join in a receipt, *primâ facie* all are presumed or considered to have received the money, yet it is competent for a *trustee* to exonerate himself by shewing that the money acknowledged to have been received by all was, in fact, received by one, and the other joined only *for conformity*; but an *executor* cannot do this, for it is not necessary for him to join in the receipt (as it is in the case of a trustee), and therefore if he does join, he is to be considered as assuming a power over the fund, and therefore answerable.

Notes.—But if the joining of a co-executor in a receipt was absolutely necessary, the usual rule as to executors will not apply, but the rule as to trustees, because as the joining was *necessary* there is no evidence that the executor so joining thereby assumed a control over the fund, which is the ordinary presumption.

Besides deciding this distinction between the receipts of trustees and executors, *Brice v. Stokes* is also, as appears above, an authority to shew that acquiescence in a breach of trust discharges a trustee.

PENN v. LORD BALTIMORE.

(2 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 923.)

Here the plaintiff and defendant being in England, had entered into articles for settling the boundaries of

two provinces in America—Pennsylvania and Maryland, and the plaintiff sought a specific performance of the articles. The principal objection was that the property was out of the jurisdiction of the Court. *Decided*:—That the plaintiff was entitled to specific performance of the articles, for though the Court had no original jurisdiction on the direct question of the original right of the boundaries, the property being abroad, yet that did not at all matter, as the suit was founded on the articles, and the Court acted *in personam*.

Notes.—The above case forms a good illustration of the well-known maxim or principle, “Equity acts *in personam* ;” a maxim which, indeed, shews the great difference in the jurisdiction of Equity to that of Law; thus at Law the only remedy on a breach of contract was an action for damages; but in Equity, as the Court acted *in personam*, the party could always be compelled to do the very act.

PEACHEY v. DUKE OF SOMERSET.

(2 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 1082.)

Here the plaintiff was tenant of copyhold lands in a manor, of which the defendant was lord. He committed acts of forfeiture by making leases contrary to the custom, without licence, and by felling timber, &c., and he now brought this suit offering to make compensation, and praying relief from the forfeitures.

Decided:—That the plaintiff was *not* entitled to relief; and that the true ground of relief against penalties is

from the original intent of the case, where the penalty is designed only to secure money, and the Court can give by way of recompense all that was expected or desired.

SLOMAN v. WALTER.

(2 *Lead. Cas. Eq.* 1094.)

The plaintiff and defendant were partners in the Chapter Coffee House, and it had been agreed that defendant should have the use of a particular room when he wanted it, and the plaintiff gave a bond to secure this. Upon breach of the agreement, defendant brought an action for the penalty of the bond, and the plaintiff brought this suit for an injunction and for the actual damage sustained by defendant to be assessed.

Decided:—That plaintiff was entitled to an injunction, and that the rule is that where a penalty is inserted merely to secure the enjoyment of a *collateral object*, the enjoyment of the object is considered as the principal intent of the deed, and the penalty only as additional, and to secure the damages really incurred.

Notes on these two Cases.—The rule as to when Equity will relieve in the case of penalties is well stated in the latter of the above two cases, whilst the former case shews an instance beyond the relief of Equity. It should be observed also that *Sloman v. Walter* shews that the jurisdiction of Equity as to relief against penalties is not so limited as to extend only to those penalties to secure payment of a sum of money, as might appear from *Peachey v. Duke of Somerset*, but that it also extends to penalties to secure *performance of some collateral act*.

LANDSDOWNE v. LANDSDOWNE.

(2 Jacob & Walker, 205.)

In this case the plaintiff, who was a son of the eldest brother of a deceased intestate, had a dispute with his uncle, a younger brother, respecting the right to inherit the real estate of the deceased. They referred the matter to a schoolmaster, who, acting on the axiom "land cannot ascend, but always descends," awarded in favour of the uncle (the younger brother).

This bill was filed by the son of the elder brother to be relieved.

Decided:—That the plaintiff was entitled to relief, and decreed accordingly, notwithstanding the maxim *Ignorantia legis non excusat*.

Notes.—A mistake as remediable in Equity is defined by Mr. Snell in his 'Principles of Equity' as "Some unintentional act, or omission, or error, arising from ignorance, surprise, imposition, or misplaced confidence."

It is usually said that "*Ignorantia facti excusat*," but "*Ignorantia legis non excusat*;" but these two simple maxims do not at all adequately answer the question, When will Equity give relief in cases of mistake? This is, indeed, a question rather difficult to answer properly in a short space; but the law on the subject seems to be as follows: Mistakes may be divided, firstly, into (1) Mistakes in matters of fact, and (2) Mistakes in matters of law; and as to the latter no relief will be given, *except* where the mistake is one of title arising from ignorance of a principle of law of such constant occurrence as to be supposed to be understood by the community at large. The case of *Landsdowne v. Landsdowne* given above is on this exception, the reason of which is, that a

mistake in such a matter affords a conclusive presumption of ignorance, imposition, or the like.

But the other class, viz., mistakes in matters of fact, may be divided as of two kinds; (1) Where the mistake consists in having done something under an erroneous impression; and, (2) Where it consists in having done something never intended to be done. In the latter kind of cases relief will almost universally be given, but in the former it is far more difficult to obtain relief, and more usually it will not be granted, though in some cases it will, for instance, when the mistake consists in supposing the existence of something which in point of fact does not exist. The mistake must be unilateral only unless founded on mutual surprise.

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